

Numerical Modeling of Tidal Effects in Accretion Discs

Patrick Godon

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
4800 Oak Grove Dr. MS 238-332
Pasadena, CA 91109

Abstract

In the present work, we use a two dimensional time-dependent polytropic spectral code to study tidal effects in accretion discs. We assume an alpha viscosity prescription in a cool disc with a steady mass inflow at the outer radial boundary, as needed to model discs in CVs. In this case the viscosity of the disc ($\alpha = 0.1$) prevent a ring to form as the matter is accreted in the inner disc through viscous dissipation. When the mass of the companion is not too low ($q > 0.01$), tidal effect induces $m = 1, 2$ modes in the inner part of the disc, thereby giving rise to oscillations. The $m = 1$ mode which propagates outward in the disc, leads to a slightly eccentric motion of the spiral pattern. It is however unable to disrupt the flow into an elliptic precessing disc.